

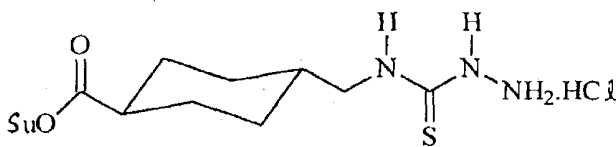
## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims:

→ 1, - 53. (canceled)

54. (cancelled)

55. (cancelled)

56. (original) The compound according to claim 71 of the formula:

57.-70. (cancelled)

71. (new) A compound of formula I



I

wherein;

A is  $-\text{NH}(\text{C}=\text{S})-$ ;

B is an amino reactive moiety;

R is  $-\text{OOC}-(\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10})-\text{CH}_2-$ ; and

X is a negative counterion.

72. (new) The compound according to claim 71, wherein X is a halide or trifluoroacetate.

73. (new) The compound according to claim 71, wherein B is an amino reactive moiety which is a succinimidyl ester, a hydroxybenzotriazolyl ester or a pentafluorophenol ester.

74. (new) A conjugate comprising the compound according to claim 71 bound to a biological molecule.

75. (new) The conjugate according to claim 74, wherein the biological molecule is a protein, a glycoprotein, or a peptide.

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